

Council Offices,
TOW LAW,
Co. Durham

Dr. A. Charlton,
M.B., B.S., M.R.San.I., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR - 1953

Area of Urban District 477 acres
Population - Registrar General's Mid-year estimate - 3,144
Number of Inhabited Houses 31/12/53 - 1006
Rateable value at 31/12/53 - £10,274
Product of 1d Rate - £37. 3. 0d.

Officials

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. A. Charlton, Grove Lodge, Tow Law.
Sanitary Inspector - Mr. H.E. Raine; M.C., C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Council Offices, Tow Law, Co Durham.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Employment continues to be satisfactory, but the need for improved housing and general amenities is still present. The general health of the community has been good.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female
Live Births - Legitimate	40	27
Illegitimate	-	3
	40	30
<u>Total - 70</u>		

Live Births per 1,000 of estimated Resident population - 22.26
Area Comparability Factor ... 1.05
Adjusted Live Birth Rate 23.37
Live Births per 1,000 England and Wales.. 15.5

Still Births Nil

Birth Rate Tow Law 1952... 24.95
Adjusted Live Birth Rate Tow Law... 26.19

DEATHS

	Male	Female
Deaths in infants under one year of age - Legitimate	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-
Total	-	2

Infantile Mortality rate per 1000 live births 28.5
Infantile Mortality rate per 1000 live births
England and Wales 26.8

Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 yrs of age
per 1000 live Births... Nil
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 yrs of age
per 1000 live births England and Wales... 1.1

NEONATAL DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths on infants under 4 weeks of age - Legitimate	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-
	-	2
Neonatal Death Rate per 1000 live births	28.5	

DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All Causes	28	26	54
Classified according to			
(i) 1st nine months	18	21	39
(ii) Last three months	10	5	15
Death Rate per 1000 Estimated resident population	17.17		
Area Comparability Factor	1.05		
Adjusted Death Rate	17.02		
Death Rate per 1000 population England & Wales. ...	11.4		
Death Rate Tow Law 1952	11.05		
Adjusted Death Rate Tow Law	11.6		

DEATHS FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Cancer of Lung/Bronchus	1	-
Cancer of Uterus	-	1
Cancer of Other parts	8	2
Vascular lesions of Nervous system	6	5
Coronary Disease/angina	3	5
Hypertension - Heart Diseases	1	1
Other Heart Diseases	4	4
Other Circulatory Disease	1	2
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	3	-
Ulcer of Stomach/Duodenum	-	1
Nephritis/Nephrotis	-	1
Ill-defined Diseases	-	3
	28	26
	<u>Total</u>	<u>54</u>

Deaths from:

Tuberculosis	} Nil
Diphtheria	
Whooping Cough	
Measles	
Pregnancy	
Child Birth	
Abortion	

Deaths from Cancer: 12 (Representing 22.2% of all deaths and rate of 3.81 per 1000 of population).

Notification of Infectious Diseases 1953

Measles 99 Cases, the majority occurring during the 1st quarter of the year.

Erysipelas 1

Whooping Cough 40 - occurring late in April and during the month of May, June, July and August.

Scarlet Fever 8

Pneumonia 1

No case admitted to Infectious Diseases Hospital.

No case of Tuberculosis was notified.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are catered for by the Public Health Laboratory, Ponteland Road, Newcastle on Tyne.

Pathological specimens can be reported upon by the Bp. Auckland General Hospital.

HOSPITALS ETC.

The area is well served by:

The General Hospital, Bp. Auckland (General)
The County Hospital, Durham.
Dryburn Hospital, Durham (General)
The General Hospital, Chester-le-Street
Shotley Bridge Hospital, Shotley Bridge.
The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle on Tyne.
The General Hospital, Newcastle on Tyne.
Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle on Tyne.
Sunderland Eye Infirmary, Sunderland.

WATER SUPPLY

Provided by Durham County Water Board. All premises have piped supply.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

Part 3 - Services Administered by Durham County Council

Part 21 - Health Centres No action.

Section 22 - Care of Mothers and Young Children A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre operates in the Mechanics Institute, Tow Law, at fortnightly intervals.

Section 23 - Midwifery There is a resident Certified Nurse who undertakes the duties of Midwifery and Maternity Nursing.

Section 24 - Health Visiting Regular visits are made by the Health Visitor.

Section 25 - Home Nursing Nurse T. Harle of 54, High Street, Tow Law, occupies the position of District Nurse.

Section 26 - Vaccination and Immunisation The Vaccination state of the community cannot be said to be satisfactory; some prejudice appears to exist as compared with Immunisation against Diphtheria. In both instances, the lack of prevalence of disease would appear to affect the number of parents taking advantage of the scheme.

Section 27 - Ambulances This service is very efficient and well patronised. The service is controlled from Bp. Auckland (Tel: Bp. Auckland 810). Owing to the isolated nature of the area, there may be a tendency to use the Service on occasions when alternative transport would suffice.

Section 28 - Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care

Arrangements are made by the County Council to implement this section, but little need exists in your area.

Section 29 - Domestic Help Arrangements are in force and are well patronised, serving an urgent need in many instances.

TREATMENT CENTRES A Venereal Diseases Clinic at Durham County Hospital and a Chest Clinic at Bp. Auckland, provide adequate facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal diseases and Tuberculosis.

There is, as yet, no provision in the Urban Area for a Day Nursery or Nursery School.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention

No action.

WATER SUPPLY Provided by Durham County Water Board. All premises have piped supply.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Inspection and Supervision of Food Shops

All premises where Food is prepared, stored or offered for Sale have been visited and particular care taken to note and advise on the necessity of preventing contamination in the handling and storage of all foodstuffs and the personal hygiene of those employed in the handling of Food. In addition to emphasise the necessity for such cleanliness the Council adopted the Byelaws under Section 15, in January 1951.

Premises inspected include:-

20 Non-registered Grocers (dry and green)
Confectionery and general shops.

Four informal notices served. Three complied with.

4 Registered Fried Fish Shops. (Two informal notices complied with).

4 Registered Shops manufacturing Sausages and other cooked meats.
(One informal notice served and complied with).

16 Registered Shops (five additional during the year) retailing
pre-packed Ice-Cream stored and sold from approved Refrigerators.

9 Licensed Hotels and 1 Registered Club.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Informal action taken and complied with to provide separate W.C. accommodation to one shop.

FACTORY ACT, 1937 - 1948

Two Bakehouses Informal action to require proper W.C. accommodation for Male employees complied with.

Extension of sewer still required to enable occupants of Bakehouse at Dan's Castle to provide proper W.C. accommodation.

Inspections for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.As.	8	1	2	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	6	1	1	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' Premises)	Nil 14	- 2	- 3	- Nil

MILK SUPPLY

Four producers of Accredited and ordinary milk, three of whom retail in the Area; in addition Tuberculin tested and Pasteurised milk is retailed by two licensed retailers, and ordinary milk sold by one retailer. No complaints have been received as to the quality of the milk.

FOOD CONDEMNED

17 tins of decomposing Cooked Ham and Veal, total weight 5st. 5lbs. 6ozs. were condemned and destroyed as unfit for consumption due to blown tins.

FOOD POISONING

No case of food poisoning reported.

NUISANCES

The following table shows the principal nuisances dealt with under the Public Health Act, 1936:-

Nature of Nuisance	Notices served		Notices complied with
	Informal	Formal	
Dwelling houses & Schools			
Structural defects	14	-	10
Wakehouses	1	-	1
Ashpits and privies	22	-	16
Deposits - Refuse and Manure	3	-	2
Water closets	6	-	2
Defective yard paving	1	-	-
House drainage	33	1	38
Water supply	2	-	2
Pig Sties	1	-	1
Ashbins	1	-	1
Infectious diseases			
Disinfections	1	-	-
	85	1	73

SMOKE ABATEMENT No action taken.

SLAUGHTERING IN DISTRICT Nil.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ORDER

During the 12 months ended December, 1953, ten Rodent Disinfestation treatments were carried out on properties within the Urban Area, four of which were business premises and the rest private dwellinghouses. In addition, periodical suveys were carried out on the Council's refuse tips, manholes and sewers. The problem of pest infestation within the area is comparatively small and treatments are quickly and effectively carried out as and when necessary.

HOUSING

2 new houses were erected and occupied during 1953.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION Total number in district : W.Cs. 335
Ash closets 566 Ashpit privies Nil

Ash closets converted into WCs. 14

I am,
Your most obedient Servant,

7th April, 1955

A. CHARLTON
M.B., B.S., M.S.San.I., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

